

**Town of Channel – Port aux Basques
1766th Regular Meeting
January 9th, 2018**

The 1766th Regular Meeting of Council convened at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Spencer presiding. Present were Deputy Mayor Strickland, Councillors Battiste, Blackler, Keeping and Lane. Also present were the Town Manager and Town Clerk.

Adoption of Minutes: It was moved by Deputy Mayor Strickland and seconded by Councillor Lane the 1765th Regular Minutes of December 12th, 2017 be adopted as presented. M.C. Unanimously

Radio Station: Mayor Spencer noted that over Christmas he had a lot of media contacting him in regards to the weather and how the town was holding up. He noted he did interviews with a lot of them including CBC National. He said VOCM employee Lenny Benoit is interested in doing more local news in this area.

Harbour Authority: The Town Manager noted that the Harbour Authority will be meeting with the Economic Development Committee but there has been no date finalized yet.

Fitness Classes at Bruce II: Deputy Mayor Strickland advised that he has spoken to the individual involved and it looks like they will be resuming. He noted that it sounds positive and everything seems to be resolved.

LED Lights at the Bruce II: The Town Manager noted that the lights are fixed at the Bruce II. He advised that Council will have to decide on the LED lights during the budget process.

Councillor Lane asked about many lights needed to be replaced and if we could do so many each year. The Town Manager advised there are 25-30 lights that need to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$400.00 per light. This is not including the cost of making changes to the existing electrical system to accommodate all of this.

Helmet Policy Bruce II: Mayor Spencer advised that there has been a change in the helmet policy at the Sports Complex. Ice officials can go to the box without helmets. In relation to taking pictures it's a variance – you have to wear your helmet until you stop on the ice for doing pictures, then its okay to remove your helmet.

The question was asked if the new policy had been drafted up. Councillor Keeping suggested that Council review this before it's actually posted to ensure it meets with the approval of Council.

It was agreed that the Recreation Director be advised to forward the new policy for Council's review.

Information Line Bruce II: Councillor Keeping asked about the information line at the Bruce II and if it was now working. The Town Manager said it is still not done. He has made several calls to Bell

and they keep redirecting him back to the local manager but he's getting no response from him. Councillor Keeping asked if we could go to The Source and get a recorder to hook to the phone system. He said it's ridiculous that people can't get a person to talk to or any information on what activities are taking place at the centre.

Councillor Lane noted that we shouldn't pay if we are not getting the service.

Fire & Emergency Services: Mayor Spencer noted that a copy of our disaster plan has been sent to Judy Bond at FES for her review. We are now waiting to hear from her as to if we need to make any changes.

Bar & Billiards re Conditional Permit: Mayor Spencer stated that the ad was placed in the local paper for people's input regarding live music and there was a fair amount of opposition from the residents. He noted that Council had received 15-16 letters of opposition. Mayor Spencer read one of the generic letters received and one from a landlord in the immediate vicinity and one from another resident who recently purchased property in the area. He noted the signatures on each letter. He said as you can see there is a fair amount of opposition.

Councillor Lane stated that he feels that the residents in the area have spoken and it's obvious they do not want live music at the bar.

Councillor Blackler asked the Manager Velda Pretty who was in the gallery how long they have been doing events with live music. Ms. Pretty advised they have been having live music since September and have not received any complaints. She said as regards to the side door that hasn't been open for quite some time.

Councillor Blackler stated that his opinion is that if they are to continue to do what they have been doing the last two years and now they want to do it legitimately what if it's a case of them having to close if we deny this.

Councillor Lane said obviously when they first opened they saw something that would work so what's any different now.

Councillor Keeping said in the past if the bar wanted to host live music for a specific event they would write Council and ask permission to do so.

The Town Clerk said it was decided on a case by case basis and then Council would look at if we received complaints from prior events.

The Town Manager wanted to remind everyone that no matter what answer Council gives them the applicant has the right to appeal.

Mayor Spencer asked the Town Clerk to explain the appeal process which she proceeded to do.

After further discussion it was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Deputy Mayor Strickland that we follow through with the original conditions issued to Harbour Bar & Billiards and they continue to be a bar/billiards without live music. MC Unanimously

Lockie MacDougall Poster: Councillor Keeping said he thinks we should really pursue this. Councillor Lane noted that there is a lot of material out there on Lockie. The Town Clerk advised that the office already had the information on Mr. MacDougall.

Permits: Councillor Blackler asked if the fines associated with not obtaining a permit are in a written policy. Deputy Mayor Strickland said that the price of permits needs to be looked at as well.

The Town Manager advised that we need to do a review of whole permit fee structure so we can include this in our budget.

The Town Clerk advised there is no written policy in place; however it is in our adopted 2017 Tax Rates.

Stop Work Order #94 Regional Street: Mayor Spencer said apparently the person in question has changed his mind and wishes to move forward. The Town Manager said he hasn't received anything from him.

The question was asked if a letter had been sent to the property owner telling him to remove the other two boxes. The Town Manager advised nothing had been sent because the last verbal conversation he had with the person was that he wasn't moving forward as he was going to foster the dogs.

It was agreed that a written response be sent to the individual advising him that he has to remove the other two wooden boxes.

Correspondence: It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Lane the correspondence be accepted and dealt with where necessary. MC Unanimously

Public Services and Procurement Canada: An email was received from Kristopher Viens, Real Estate Advisor with Public Services and Procurement Canada inquiring in the Town would be interested acquiring a parcel of land on Marine Drive.

Councillor Keeping asked where the land was located to. It was noted that it is directly in front of the Marine Atlantic Finance Building.

The Town Manager noted he had asked if they had approached Marine Atlantic regarding this. Mr. Viens said he had been in touch with them several times but they are not interested.

Councillor Keeping suggested the Public Works Committee take a look at this and report back at the next Council meeting.

CN Pensioners Club re Guardrail: A letter was received from the President of the CN Pensioners Club asking Council to extend a guard rail from the Marine Atlantic Overpass bridge towards the turn off to the property their building is on. They are also requesting signage be posted to warn motorists of the turn as it's becoming a safety issue.

Mayor Spencer noted this is a busy intersection and what is compounding the problem is when coming down from High Street you can't see the turn off. He noted he spoke to the Town Manager on this issue and the town put a pole there with reflective tape on it.

Councillor Keeping said he would think the guardrail was put there years ago by the town.

Mayor Spencer noted even if we put up a sign saying blind exit. They want better identification of the turn.

It was agreed the Public Works Committee will look at this and report back at the next meeting.

Paul Boundridge/Planning Consultant re 56-60 Grand Bay West Road: An email was received from Paul Boundridge of Boundridge Planning and Development Services Inc. outlining his cost to do the amendment to the Town Plan to accommodate Mr. Sheaves request.

The Town Manager advised that the cost is anywhere between \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 so he will have to discuss this with the person requesting the rezoning before we proceed. He noted that there are twelve municipal planners in Newfoundland and they are all from St. John's which means it's more costly because of travel time.

Councillor Keeping asked the Town Clerk what the last rezoning amendment cost. The Town Clerk advised it was approximately \$3,000.00.

It was agreed that the Town Manager contact Mr. Sheaves and discuss this with him.

Town Manager's Report:

The Town's Public Works Department has been busy with Snow clearing operations. The priority for snow clearing operations is to address main arterials, collector streets and then on to side streets/cul de sacs/laneways. Once all streets have been identified as being cleared, pushback and cleanup operations begin. Town sidewalks are given priority in the area of the schools and then proceed out to high traffic/pedestrian areas.

The Town has experienced consecutive days of inclement weather throughout December and the early part of January, however, salt usage has been consistent with previous seasons. Road salt is proven to be the most effective cost-efficient melting material for icy or snow-covered roads. However, as the temperature falls below 10-15(degrees), salt loses its melting power and becomes ineffective. The temperatures the Town has experienced lately are not conducive for effective ice control which affects the equipment's ability to minimize ice build-up on area streets.

Land Use Zoning and Municipal Plan Amendments – Grand Bay West Road. The Town has requested information from available Land Use Planners to determine costs associated with rezoning land in the area of Grand Bay West Road. Arvo McMillan, who produced the Town's 2010 Development Regulations, has retired from the profession. Available registered members with the Canadian Institute of Planners are located on the east coast of the Island. Boundridge Development and Planning Services,

St. John's, has provided a quote for services required to complete this component of work. A copy of the scope of work and fee structure associated with this endeavour is attached for reference.

Harbourview Bar & Billiards – a notice was issue to the owner of this facility that any events which involved live music and/or entertainment was to cease immediately due to complaints received from area residents. Council will discuss the application from the company regarding its submission for a variance.

Snow Clearing – the Town Manager noted it's proceeding as planned given the weather we've been having. We have had a few complaints but that's par for the course. He noted that salt doesn't react to -10 beyond so it's a waste to put it out.

Councillor Lane asked about using sand. The Town Manager said using sand gives you traction. He noted that the sand/salt mix is 4-1. The amount of salt we use is very minimal.

Councillor Keeping noted that in high winds the sand doesn't stay down.

Deputy Mayor Strickland asked if we had our own salt supply. The Town Manager replied stating that we purchase our salt/sand from the Department of Transportation and Works who have it on site for us to pick up. We always ensure the salt shed in the town yard is kept stocked.

Land Use Zoning and Municipal Plan Amendments: The Town Manager noted that there is only one other planner outside of St. John's and he works for the City of Corner Brook and is not available for outside work. He advised he has asked for several quotes but have only received one to date. Should he receive additional quotes upon review of costs he will forward it to Council.

The Mayor vacated the Chair's seat and turned the meeting over to Deputy Mayor Strickland as he wanted to present an item to Council for consideration.

Motion to Amend Rules of Procedure: Mayor Spencer said he reviewed the Rules of Order and thinks we should amend #17 to include Adoption of the Agenda as this will allow the opportunity to add items to the agenda before it gets adopted. He doesn't mean to add just any item only those that we would consider an emergency.

The Town Clerk noted that we would also have to amend #16 to coincide with the amendment to #17.

Councillor Keeping asked if this has ever been an issue. The Town Clerk said it has been an issue more than once. The staff sends the agenda out on Fridays, after it goes out then councillors in the past have been known to add their items after it has been emailed. This has been known to happen several times on the week of the meeting. Sometimes the agenda has been changed as high as four times.

Councillor Blackler said he likes the Friday thing as you can prepare in advance unless something comes up that takes thirty seconds to deal with.

The Town Clerk suggested Council members review the Rules of Order, redo where they feel is necessary and circulate the news ones before adopting the amendments.

Deputy Mayor Strickland asked how the Mayor sees this affecting Council.
Mayor Spencer noted it falls in line with the Act.

Mayor Spencer resumed the chair.

Grand Bay West Beach Public Forum: Deputy Mayor Strickland noted that it was agreed that we would discuss this before a public meeting. He noted everything is booked for January 22nd, 2018. He asked if we have notified all interested parties besides the public. Mayor Spencer said not that he knows of.

The Town Manager asked if the Economic Development Officer was advised. Deputy Mayor Strickland said yes.

Deputy Mayor Strickland said he thinks Council needs to brainstorm to make sure everyone is included such as the Economic Development Officer, the Recreation Director and the Chamber. We need to ensure that key people are included.

The Town Clerk noted she will direct staff to put an ad in the paper advising people of this. Councillor Blackler will put on the Council Facebook page and we will ensure it is on our website.

Mayor Spencer said it can be live streamed if they want.

Deputy Mayor Strickland said he will be sending out emails on this to Council and staff in his role as being Chairperson of this.

Mayor Spencer said we will have another one in February on the same topic but will change the venue and time.

Fuel Shortage: Deputy Mayor Strickland explained he had put this topic on the agenda because people raised issues with him because the gas station ran out of fuel. It might be something we can put in our Disaster Plan to be looked at given the wreckhouse winds and the weather. He said he figured it would spark a discussion on what is here in town and we could identify the source.

Councillor Keeping asked if they actually ran out.

Mayor Spencer said he called the Town Manager and all the town's vehicles were fuelled up. It was one night and the next morning with just one gas station.

Councillor Blackler asked if the town had storage to which the Town Manager responded we have a 10,000 litre tank that holds diesel.

It was agreed to do a follow up. The Deputy Mayor will put it on the agenda for the upcoming emergency meeting.

Adjournment: With no further business it was moved by Councillor Battiste to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 pm.


John Spencer
Mayor


Julia Ingram
for Town Clerk